

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 49, 53, 56 and 57 as follows:

Claims 1-48 (Cancelled).

49. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for gripping and removing a shingle fixed to a support comprising:

an upper gripping member defining a substantially flat first gripping surface;  
a lower gripping member defining a substantially flat second gripping surface;  
a gripping mechanism connecting the upper and lower gripping members to one another, the gripping mechanism being configured for urging the gripping members toward one another for gripping the shingle therebetween; and

an impact transmitting member connected to the gripping mechanism, the impact transmitting member being configured for transmitting an impact to both the upper and lower gripping members for removing the shingle from the support when the shingle is gripped between the upper and lower gripping members;

wherein:

the first and second gripping surfaces are configured and disposed relative to one another such that, when the apparatus grips the shingle, each of the first and second gripping surfaces applies a force ~~distributed across a respective one of substantially flat surfaces of the shingle~~ evenly distributed along an entire width thereof.  
and

~~the impact transmitting member is further configured and disposed for transmitting the impact substantially parallel to the flat surfaces of the shingle for removing the shingle from the support.~~



50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein:  
the upper gripping member comprises an upper jaw and an upper plate connected thereto;  
the lower gripping member comprises a lower jaw and a lower plate connected thereto;  
the gripping mechanism comprises an upper handle and a lower handle, the upper handle being connected to the upper jaw and the lower handle being connected to the lower jaw; and  
the impact transmitting member comprises an anvil rigidly connected to the lower jaw.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising:  
a jaw member rigidly connected to the lower jaw and pivotally connected to the upper handle and to the lower handle;  
an adjustment screw connected to the upper handle;  
a spring attached at one end thereof to the jaw member and at another end thereof to the upper handle; and  
a linking member pivotally attached at one end thereof to the lower handle, and abutting the adjustment screw at another end thereof.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the anvil is oriented at about a 90 degree angle to the lower plate.

53. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the upper plate is ~~one~~ of fixedly and pivotally attached to the upper jaw.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the lower plate is fixedly attached to the lower jaw.

55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the impact transmitting member further comprises an elongated rod fixedly attached to the anvil, a sliding hammer slidably disposed on the rod, and a striking surface connected to the rod.

56. (Currently Amended) A method for removing a shingle fixed to a support comprising:

gripping the shingle between a first flat gripping surface and a second flat gripping surface of respective upper and lower gripping members of a gripping apparatus such that each of the first and second flat gripping surfaces applies a force evenly distributed along an entire width thereof ~~distributed across a respective one of flat surfaces of the shingle~~; and

transmitting an impact to both the upper and lower gripping members ~~in a direction substantially parallel to the flat surfaces of the shingle~~ when the shingle is gripped there between for removing the shingle from the support.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein:


gripping comprises gripping the shingle between an upper jaw of the apparatus having an upper plate and a lower jaw of the apparatus having a lower plate; and

transmitting an impact comprises striking an anvil fixedly connected to the lower jaw ~~in a direction substantially parallel to the flat surfaces of the shingle~~.

58. (Original) The method of claim 57, wherein:

gripping the shingle comprises gripping a shingle attached to the support with at least one nail;

transmitting an impact comprises one of shearing off the at least one nail when the shingle is removed from the support and ripping off the at least one nail when the shingle is removed from the support.

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59. (Original) The method of claim 57, wherein transmitting an impact comprises actuating a sliding hammer on an elongated rod attached to the anvil for striking an impact surface connected to the rod thereby transmitting the impact to upper and lower jaws for removing the shingle.
60. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the upper plate is pivotally attached to the upper jaw.
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